

6. In the matter of a loan to the Kottayam Municipality, the council should move.
7. The other points you mentioned will all receive consideration.

138. Needs of the Minachil taluk, Group I.

MR. KURIAKOSE CHACKO (*Member, Minachil taluk, Group I*) said that the jurisdiction over the Minachil taluk was divided between two Executive Engineers and three Sub-division officers. This was not conducive to proper administration. It would be more convenient if it was placed under the control of the Kottayam Division officer and any one of the Sub-division officers.

The following public works had to be attended to in the taluk :—

1. The construction of a bridge across the Minachil river on the Lalam-Ponkunnamm road. The Member explained the urgent need for the bridge by means of a plan which he presented before the Dewan.
2. The Lalam-Punjar road and the two miles of the village road from Punjar should be extended to meet the road to Mundakayam constructed by Mr. P. T. Thomas. The people were prepared to construct the road. But the help of the Government was necessary in constructing one or two culverts on the road.
3. A bridge at Erattupetta on the Lalam-Punjar road should be constructed.
4. The village road from Erattupetta to Arakkulam was an ancient route. It should be made a public road. The trade between Erattupetta and Todupuzha would then develop.
5. The Kondur-Aruvittura village road should also be made a public road.
6. The Lalam-Punjar road, the Lalam-Todupuzha road, the Lalam-Ponkunnamm road, the Erattupetta-Kanjirapalli road, the Ampara-Mankompu road and the Antinad-Melukavu road, maintained by the Public Works Department, were in a bad condition and should be properly maintained.
7. The maintenance of the following village roads taken over by the Public Works Department was not properly attended to :—
 - (i) Paikapinnakkunadu road,
 - (ii) Bharananganam-Vazhamattam road,
 - (iii) Bharananganam-Tidanad road, and
 - (iv) Bharananganam-Vilakkumadam road.

The Plasanal-Piravittanam road should be made fit for cart traffic as early as possible. The Edapadi-Piravittanam road and the Kizhatadiyar-Alanad road, two village roads, should be taken over by the Public Works Department for maintenance. The Lalam-Ramapuram road should also be taken up by the department for maintenance and a few bridges and culverts wherever necessary should also be constructed.

8. The road from the Antinad-Melukavu road to Vizhaku was under the management of the Public Works Department. It was in a very bad way. It should be improved. There was also the necessity for a bridge on this road near the Kadanad church.

9. There was a narrow river which divided the Erattupetta-Kanjirapalli road. If a bridge was constructed, the trade between these two places would develop considerably.

A First Class Magistrate's court in Minachil taluk was a necessity. The Government should arrange early for its establishment. The Police out-post at Pala should be transferred to the jurisdiction of the Pala police station. A charging station at Erattupetta and at Ramapuram should be established.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kuriakose Chacko, we have gone through the question of the bridges and the roads together informally with the help of your map both now and in the morning, and I am glad to be able to tell you that, in the matter

of the bridge across the Minachil river on the Lalam-Ponkunnam road, the Chief Engineer has got most of the materials ready and he has given instructions to the Divisional officer to begin the masonry work. So you will see the work will be taken up immediately.

2. In regard to the Mundakayam-Punjar road, as you say that you are quite willing to arrange for cutting the road under the Ryots' Roads Rules, the Chief Engineer will be ready to give you the alignment and will help you with culverts and so on.

3. Then you ask for the establishment of a First Class Magistrate's court at Minachil. I do not know why everybody all over the country wants a Magistrate's court set like a jewel in his taluk. This question of a First Class Magistrate's court, as you know, has already come up before this, and I am now having it further examined to see whether it will be possible without breach of any great principle to meet the wishes of your taluk in the matter.

4. In the matter of transfer of the control of the Punjar police out-post to the Minachil police station and the establishment of a charging station at Punjar and Ramapuram, the Commissioner of Police advises me that the opening of an additional charging station in the Minachil taluk is desirable, and, if finances permit, he recommends that this should be done. So, I shall see whether it will be possible to spare enough money next year for the purpose.

5. All the other points so clearly set out in your statement will be carefully considered one by one.

139. Needs of the Minachil taluk, Group II.

MR. JOSEPH THOMAS (*Member, Minachil taluk, Group II*) said that a bridge across the Minachil river on the Lalam-Ponkunnam road was a long-felt want and that as a result of repeated representations in the Assembly its construction had been sanctioned. It should be constructed as quickly as possible.

Half the number of criminal cases filed in the Kottayam First Class Magistrate's court was from Minachil. There was congestion and delay in the disposal of cases in the Kottayam First Class Magistrate's court. The people of Minachil were also finding it difficult to go up to Kottayam. A First Class Magistrate at Minachil was on these counts a real necessity.

The fish and vegetable markets which were held in the Pala bazaar for nearly fifty years were now shifted to a place outside the town limits to the great inconvenience of the people. The place was nearly three quarters of a mile from the river. This rendered transportation of articles difficult. The sole consideration of the Government in agreeing to this proposal was that the land necessary for the purpose need not be paid for. In view of the difficulties which the people would be put to if it was established as a public market outside the town limits, the Member requested the Dewan to inspect the place before the proposal was given effect to.

The construction of a *ghat* in the Minachil river near the market was very necessary for bathing purposes and for lading and unlading goods. This could be done without any heavy expenditure and should be attended to as early as possible.

The cremation ground of the Brahmins was in the heart of the town. It should be removed without any delay.

The Minachil-Kadutturutti road was not yet completed although the Government had sanctioned the necessary funds as early as 1918. This was due to the indifference of the Public Works Department. This road should be completed at least in the current year.

The village road branching from Lalam-Ramapuram road and reaching Kuri-chittanam and the village road branching from the 1st mile of the Lalam-Ramapuram road and meeting the Ramapuram road should be completed by the Government and maintained. The ryots' road from Cheppunkal to Kozhuvanal and the trace from